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To: "mdove@fec.gov" <mdove@fec.gov>, "mdinh@fec.gov" <mdinh@fec.gov>, "rknap@fec.gov" <rknap@fec.gov>
cc: "weleadindc@yahoo.com" <weleadindc@yahoo.com>

Subject:

Ellen L. Weintraub:

As a financial advisor, I am concerned that the General Counsel's office of the Federal Election Commission is recommending against the proposed fundraising strategy of WE LEAD - Women Engaged in Leadership, Education and Action in Democracy (AP 2003-23). I urge you to reconsider.

I have been involved with WE LEAD since the beginning and played a role in the development of this fundraising process based on my professional knowledge and experience with helping individuals save and invest for the future. In my business, I see many people who have a strong will and desire to invest for their future retirement. But, some how or another when April 15 comes around, they have a hard time finding that \$3000 to make their IRA contributions. A technique I employ in my business, as do many other financial professionals, is to have individuals make smaller periodic contributions throughout the year. This way, the sum of all of the parts equals their maximum allowable contribution. They can benefit from every small contribution going to something much larger, something that will give them a stake in their future.

And so this is the strategy we have been working to develop with WE LEAD. In this era of campaign finance reform we must find ways to begin to move away from the mighty high dollar donors and instead begin to give a larger voice to the smaller contributor -- someone who wants to be able to save and invest in their future, their political future. By contributing a little here and a little there, they can make a difference for themselves, and for all of us as well.

Please reconsider your opinion of WE LEAD's fundraising strategy. Our nation's political leaders need to hear from small dollar donors, and WE LEAD's strategy can help make that happen.

Sincerely,
Claire M. S. Meade, AAMS*
Financial Advisor